

There should be no hard feelings between the people of Torrance and Lomita whatever the outcome of the pending annexation matter. Certainly Torrance property owners cannot be blamed for protecting their own interests, and at the same time we cannot criticize the people of Lomita for attempting a move which no doubt they feel will benefit them.

But perhaps the apparent reluctance on the part of Torrance officials to further broaden the boundaries of this far-flung city may be a blessing in disguise for Lomita taxpayers. We refer to the effect that the proposed annexation of Lomita would have upon the Cabrillo-Eshelman avenue widening and improvement project.

The County Board of Supervisors has agreed to pay the entire cost of paving a 30-foot roadway on Eshelman avenue south of Sepulveda boulevard (old Redondo Road or Camino Real) to Anaheim avenue providing owners of property fronting on Eshelman avenue will deed 15 feet of their frontage to the county. This will make an 80-foot boulevard with 30 feet of hard pavement and 8-foot shoulders without any cash outlay from property owners or the placing of any encumbrance against their property. The entire cost of the improvement job will be paid out of gasoline tax money. However, this can only be accomplished so long as Lomita remains county territory. The moment Lomita incorporates or annexes to any other municipality, the county cannot furnish the money necessary to do the work as a cash job.

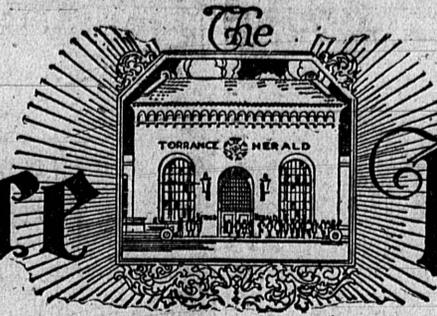
If Lomita should annex to Torrance and the Torrance City Council approves the annexation, all hope of paving Eshelman avenue as a cash job by the county must be abandoned. The entire Cabrillo-Eshelman project must then be thrown into condemnation and district assessment proceedings. This means that a great many more people will have to approve the project and owners of property for several blocks, back from the boulevard required to pay their share of the assessment. Even the owners of frontage will lose money by this procedure, as their share of the improvement cost will be greater than the amount of money received from condemnation of the 15 feet needed to the right-of-way. Furthermore, the project will be retarded at least two years.

Deeds for the dedication of frontage along Eshelman avenue will be ready shortly, and Carl L. Hyde, secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, is planning to spend all his time in getting them signed. It does seem that it would be wise for Lomita people to drop their annexation discussions until this much needed artery connecting Western avenue with Redondo-Wilmington boulevard can be consummated, which should not be over a year at the most.

Ground will soon be broken for the erection of the magnificent Fern Avenue school, and naturally the school board is going to require the paving of streets surrounding the new building. But why stop with these few streets? Would it not be wise to pave all the streets in Vista Highlands; perhaps not an expensive type of pavement, but some permanent road surfacing.

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COUNCIL TABLES ANNEXATION

WATER PLANT SALE TO CITY CONSIDERED

Committees to Investigate; Findley Tells of New Data on Purchase

Negotiations may soon be re-opened for the purchase of the Torrance Water, Light and Power Company's water plant here by the city if plans proposed by Don Findley at the Tuesday afternoon Chamber of Commerce directors' meeting materialize.

Findley reported that in a conference recently with A. J. Roberti, former general manager of the water company, Roberti told him that the holding company, which owned a number of California utility concerns, had disposed of all of its interests on the Pacific Coast with the exception of the Torrance plant. The purchaser, Roberti told Findley, was the California Service Company, which owns and operates the water system used by Redondo residents.

Would End Controversy He was informed, Findley reported, that the parent company which owns the local utility, had taken a \$200,000 loss on its Fresno plant and he had every reason to believe that now is the time to re-open negotiations for the purchase of the local plant. The Torrance company is the only one west of Ohio owned by the holding company under which the local plant operated.

Findley expressed his firm belief that the city could find a way to buy the local plant and thus settle at once the controversy which has been existing ever since September 25, when bonds were voted by the people for the purchase of construction of a publicly-owned water system. He cited the fact that the city has already spent \$5000 in attorneys' fees in the suit which has been pending between the city and the Torrance Water Company to determine the legality of the bond issue. Findley also stressed the high water rates Torrance people are still compelled to pay for their water.

To Study Proposal At the conclusion of his talk, Findley's suggestion that a citizens' committee be appointed to study the proposition and to urge and endorse any action the council might take to bring about an early settlement of the matter, was approved by the directors. Members of the Public Utility and Public (Continued on Page 4-A)

Fortin Awaits Verdict Today On Death Case

Local Young Man Declares He Was at Home Time of Mucklow Crash

Deputy District Attorney Penney is attempting to break down today the alibi proffered by Lloyd Fortin, 20, 829 Portola avenue, in which the young man denied that he is the man who ran down and killed 14-year-old Kendall Mucklow, 2933 Acadia street, Lomita, in that community on May 9. The case is expected to go to the jury late this afternoon.

Fortin testified in his own behalf yesterday in Superior Judge O'Donnell's court and produced three members of his family who claimed he was at home at the time of the accident. Fortin, who is a steel worker here, is charged with manslaughter and hit-and-run driving.

The Torrance man was arrested and accused of running the boy-bicycle rider down when local officers found the fenders and headlight of his automobile dented and traces of green paint on the bumper. The Mucklow boy's bicycle was painted green, according to deputy sheriffs. It is also asserted that a piece of glass found at the accident scene fits into the broken headlight on Fortin's car. The Mucklow boy was fatally injured on Narbonne avenue between Pine and Elgin streets.

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METROPOLITAN BOND VOTE DATE TO BE SET TOMORROW

\$220,000,000 Issue to Construct Units in Great Water Route From Colorado River To 15 District Member-Cities Will Be at Stake



The above map shows the Parker-Metropolitan aqueduct route up to point where feeder lines to cities, such as Torrance, in the District may connect with main system. The great aqueduct, which will be built from a bond issue of \$220,000,000 to be voted on at a date which will be determined tomorrow, will be 252 miles in length.

At a cost of less than one cent a day, property owners in the Metropolitan Water District can forever bury the now present bugaboo of water shortage if the proposed \$220,000,000 Water District bond issue to finance immediate construction of an aqueduct and auxiliary features along the Parker route from the Colorado River is approved by voters in Torrance and the 14 other cities in the District.

Mayor John Dennis, this municipality's representative on the Metropolitan Water District board of directors, will meet with the District directorate tomorrow to determine the date for the submission of the great bond issue to the voters.

Covers Initial Cost The directors have indicated that they will submit the bond issue to the voters in the Metropolitan Water District "at the earliest practicable moment" which will possibly be some time in September, it is reported.

The sum of the bond issue was decided by the directors last Friday, and while it provides for the construction of a full size aqueduct and appurtenances which will deliver an ultimate average capacity of 1500 second feet to the cities in the District, is not, however, the total final cost of the complete project. This, in the report submitted by F. E. Weymouth, chief engineer of the District, is placed at \$283,536,000. The bond issue recommended by Weymouth in his "final conclusions and recommendations," at this time will cover the initial construction cost of the diversion dam at the Colorado River, main aqueduct, terminal storage and some delivery lines.

Whether the deferred construction work should be financed by a future bond issue or from revenue should be left for future determination, Weymouth advised.

Average Cost Quoted At their meeting tomorrow in Los Angeles, the directors of the District will decide on a definite date for the bond election, and act on other matters pertaining to the presentation of the cause for the Metropolitan aqueduct.

In commenting last Friday upon the financial aspect of the board's decision to set the bond quota at \$220,000,000, W. D. Whitsett, chairman, said: "What the average citizen and taxpayer is interested in is not so much complicated engineering data, but rather how much it is going to cost him. From Weymouth's report we are able to answer his question simply. To a family owning a \$7000 home, the average cost of this \$220,000,000 aqueduct, during the six-year construction period, will be \$3.50 a year—or less than a cent a day.

"And this less-than-a-cent-a-day cost is only until the project is completed and on a paying basis through the sale of water."

Swing Expected To Visit Here July 30

Arrangements are to be completed this week for the expected visit of Congressman Phil Swing to this city next Thursday, July 30. The tentative date was given Mayor John Dennis by the distinguished visitor this week. Swing will be the guest of honor at the weekly Rotary club luncheon on that date if he comes to Torrance.

The congressman is to make an inspection of local factories in an effort to learn their future power requirements as he has inaugurated a program of bringing more industries and assisting present manufacturing firms to expand in the Southland. He will be conducted through a number of local plants by a committee and officers of the Chamber of Commerce.

No Saturday Night Baths For 16 Torrance Firemen

Sixteen firemen will eliminate their Saturday night baths this week-end. The weekly rite will be absolutely useless to them because the first annual water fight between Companies 1 and 2 will be staged Saturday afternoon, July 25, in El Prado Park, corner of El Prado and Cravens avenue. The time is three o'clock.

Company No. 1, headed by Captain George Key, challenged Company No. 2, led by Captain and City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, to the hose battle Monday night. The winning group is to be tendered a "chicken dinner" by the losing contestants. All residents of Torrance and vicinity are cordially invited to witness the spectacle.

Both competing companies will have the services of engineers who will operate the pumps on the fire engines. J. J. Benner has been instructed to engineer for Company No. 1 and J. E. McMaster is assigned to Company No. 2.

The battle will not be an ordinary water fight in which the two groups squirt water at hydrant pressure at each other until one is "drowned out" but will be a race to see who "gets water" first after the starting signal is given. Each company will "hook up" and pump as at an actual fire but their nozzle will be trained on the opposing lineup.

Company No. 1 is composed of Key, Dewey Pix, W. C. Silence, Ellis Harder, Lewis Edwards, J. A. Benner, Ed Little and W. J. Neff. Company No. 2 has Bartlett, J. R. Winters, S. C. Smith, A. W. Sessions, W. T. Jones, C. C. Benner, William Everett and G. D. Mosher.

Everything possible will be done by the city to facilitate the construction of the new Fern Avenue school, but members of the council balked at a request of the Los Angeles City Board of Education for the laying of a sewer line to the institution at the city's expense.

City Engineer Leonard declared that approximately 720 feet of six-inch sanitary sewer pipe would have to be laid to connect the new school with the nearest main line and that the expense would be between \$250 and \$550. Councilman G. A. B. Steiner emphatically pointed out that the school board ought to pay its own bills, as the city of Torrance gives the school system about \$200,000 a year in taxes.

Another district of the city have paid for their sewer conveniences without call upon the general fund of the city, the work requested by the Board of Education would not be legal, according to Councilman Ed Nelson. The matter was referred to the city engineer for further conference with school authorities and he was requested to explain to them the city's position on the matter.

Leonard also told the council that another matter, that of paving the streets, Fern, Elm and El Dorado, would come before the council from the Board of Education in a short time and the city may be asked to contribute a large share of this cost. Both matters will be further investigated by the city engineer.

RUMBLE SEAT PROVES TRAP

"Rather Stout" Woman Victim of Extra Seating Capacity That Was Not Extra Enough For Her

Somewhere in Torrance there is a rather stout woman who doesn't think so much of rumble seats—somewhere there is an owner of a popular low-priced car who is getting his new Ford repaired—and somewhere in this community an owner of a pair of tinmith's shears is still laughing!

All because the lady (who must, of course, be nameless) went for a ride in the auto owned by a local man (also nameless for the lady's sake) to try out the rumble seat.

No Names—for Lady's Sake Now a rumble—or "frumble" seat—in a small roadster looks extremely peaceful, yet it caused this Torrance housewife much painful thought, her neighbors much exertion and a good hearty laugh (although out of sight and hearing of the distressed lady) of the owner of the shears.

Read then the story of events which have proved a source of high amusement to residents on a certain street in Torrance. The cloud of obscurity which surrounds identities and actual location of this episode must forever shroud such facts as the Herald does not care to point the finger of comedy at any lady—however stout she may be. "I know I'm stout—but I never thought I was as fat as this," the firmly wedged-in woman wailed as she sat in the jump-seat unable to get out.

Crowd Gathers at Scene "Henry told me it was easy to get in and out of these things, but now look—" and with a feeble wave of her hand she indicated the puzzled neighbors and friends who were attracted to her and Henry's efforts to extricate her (Continued on Page 8-A)

LOMITA PETITION TO ANNEX PIGEON-HOLED BY TORRANCE

Delegates From Lomita Argue Before the Chamber of Commerce Board But Given No Encouragement; Matter Is Referred to Committee

The proposed annexation of South Lomita was officially frowned upon Tuesday evening when the Torrance City Council unanimously voted to table the notice of intention to circulate petitions to annex the balance of Lomita to Torrance. While the action of the Torrance City Council to pigeon-hole the matter does not prohibit voters of Lomita from circulating annexation petitions, in official parlance the motion to table the matter is a polite way of saying, "Sorry, folks, but we are not interested."

Chamber Parry Leaders in the annexation move from Lomita who addressed the Torrance Chamber of Commerce board of directors Tuesday afternoon likewise were given no assurance that Torrance desired any more territory. Lomitans who argued in favor of annexation before the chamber board were: D. F. Naulty, E. M. Mosher, John Holm and P. H. Rowland. These four men with Miss Birda Paddock also signed the notice of intention to circulate the annexation petition which was read at the City Council meeting and tabled without discussion.

Lomita Delegates Explaining that it was not the desire of Lomita people to attempt to force themselves onto Torrance if the latter city would not welcome the annexation, the Lomita delegates stated that they had come to find out if the proposed annexation of Lomita would meet with the approval of Chamber of Commerce directors.

John Holm pointed out the need for desirable residential lots in Torrance and suggested that the foothills in South Lomita would some day be valuable property for Torrance. "If Lomita is not a benefit at the present time, it will be later," he said.

P. H. Rowland said he doubted the truth of the argument that if Lomita annexed to Torrance that this action would kill the proposed widening and improvement of the Cabrillo-Eshelman project. He expressed the opinion that a number of owners of property fronting on Eshelman avenue would not deed the necessary 15 feet of frontage in exchange for the county's agreement to pave the street as a cash job without cost to property owners. Among those he mentioned whom he thought would not deed frontage were the "Old Moran Estate," Louis Sepulveda, W. M. Armstrong and R. H. Hilton.

Disregards Taxes E. M. Mosher claimed that Torrance should not consider increased taxes and other material things, but should look forward to the day when both Torrance and Lomita would grow greater. He stated that Lomita now has a population of 5500 and stated that he thought the addition of this many people would be an asset to Torrance.

D. F. Naulty stated that he owned property in both Torrance and Lomita and if he thought it would be detrimental to his Torrance holdings he certainly would not favor the annexation of South Lomita.

After hearing the arguments of the Lomita delegates, the Torrance board referred the matter to the annexation committee for study and recommendation. The annexation committee is composed of the members of the executive committee and includes DeKalb Spurlin, president; Dr. J. S. Lancaster and Donald Findley.

Vice President Earl Conner, who acted as chairman of the meeting in the absence of President Spurlin, who is on a vacation, stated, "I don't think this board will do anything to impede the progress of Lomita, but we must study this matter from all angles before taking any action."

President Spurlin expressed his views on further annexations to Torrance last week at the annual meeting of Chamber of Commerce directors when he stated: "I think we have done a lot of good work on annexations, but it is time now to call a halt. We could make some annexations that would add to our tax rate, and I don't think we should do it."

A number of other members of the Chamber of Commerce board, as well as members of the City Council, have frankly but informally expressed themselves as opposed to any further broadening of the city limits of Torrance, as they feel that this city is too big already.

Pioneers to Tell Of City's Early History The story of Torrance will not be allowed to fade into oblivion. Chamber of Commerce directors voted to have President DeKalb Spurlin appoint five citizens on a historical committee for the purpose of gathering and preserving the complete history of the city. It was pointed out that the source of information on the "early days" of the community, the old timers, was rapidly diminishing and that an effort should be made to contact Torrance pioneers at once to obtain their impressions of the city founded in 1912.